ZiF WORKSHOP

The Good Life in Late Socialist Asia: Aspirations, Politics and Possibilities

Convenors:       Prof. Dr. Minh Nguyen (Bielefeld, GER)
                  Dr. Phill Wilcox (Bielefeld, GER)

16 – 18 September 2019

SUNDAY – 15 SEPTEMBER

18:00 – 20:00       Arrival and Welcome Drink at ZiF

MONDAY – 16 SEPTEMBER

08:00 – 09:00       – Breakfast –

09:00 – 09:30       Registration

09:30 – 11:00       Opening remarks by:
                  Professor Veronique Zanetti (5mins) – Director of Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZIF)
                  Professor Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka (10 mins) – Dean, Sociology Faculty, Bielefeld University
                  Professor Minh Nguyen (15 mins)
                  Keynote address (60 mins) – In Search of the Good Life in China and Beyond – Professor Li Zhang

                  Session chair: Dr Phill Wilcox

11:00 – 11:15       – Coffee & tea break –
11:15 – 12:45  **Panel – Infrastructure and Living Space**
- Building a new house, making a good life: A case study of Baikou New Village in southern China – Dr Wei Lan
- The good life at the heart of the home: Kitchen stories from Vietnam – Professor Annuska Derks
- Express train to the good life? The Lao-China railway, imagined futures and pragmatic aspirations in Laos – Dr Phill Wilcox

**Discussant: Professor Andrew Kipnis**
**Chair: Dr. Éva Rozália Hölzle**

12:45 – 14:00  – *Lunch* –

14:00 – 15:30  **Panel – Ecology and Environment**
- The good life as the green life – Dr Charlotte Bruckermann
- Forest transition, institutional changes and livelihood dynamics in upland villages of Yunnan, Southwest China – Professor Jun He
- “The good life and lowland rice farming change in Savannakhet province, Southern Laos” – Professor Ian Baird

**Discussant: Professor Jonathan Rigg**
**Chair: Dr Marius Meinhof**

15:30 – 16:00  – *Coffee, tea & cake break* –

16:00 – 17:30  **Panel – Governance and Policies**
- “Staying or moving: government compliance and agency in post Zomia” – Professor Guido Sprenger
- Modernizing a deficient population – lessons from colonial history – Dr Marius Meinhof
- Alternative routes to development? Hmong Christianisation and the question of neoliberalism in Vietnam’s highlands – Mr Seb Rumsby

**Discussant: Professor Ian Baird**
**Chair: Dr Oliver Tappe**

19:00  – *Dinner at ZiF* –
TUESDAY – 17 SEPTEMBER

08:00 – 09:00  – Breakfast –

09:30 – 11:00  Panel – Mobility and Livelihoods
   - Trans-local households and family visions in contemporary Vietnam: A neoliberal shift? – Professor Hy Van Luong
   - From rural to urban area: Workers’ motivation for migration and their social status at industrial zones (Binh Duong province and Ho Chi Minh city) – Professor Duc Loc Nguyen
   - Mining for the Good Life? Artisanal mining, mobility and changing livelihoods in Khammouane (central Laos) – Dr Oliver Tappe

Discussant: Professor Jonathan Rigg
Chair: Professor Ruth Ayaß

11:00 – 11:15  – Coffee & tea break –

11:15 – 12:45  Panel – Religion and Spirituality
   - Romance and compassion, this and other worlds: Performing good life in a Tibetan town – Dr Fan Zhang
   - Protection and vulnerability: (Re)creating health in rural lowland Laos – Ms Elizabeth Elliott
   - Spirits with morality: Social criticism and notions of a good life in Laos through the bangbot imaginary – Dr Michael Kleinod

Discussant: Professor Hy Van Luong
Chair: Mr Seb Rumsby

12:45 – 14:00  – Lunch –

14:00 – 16:00  Panel – Marriage and private life
   - Not before 25. Resisting marriage and looking for the good life in contemporary urban China – Dr Roberta Zavoretti
   - Ressentiment and recognition – Professor Boqing Cheng
   - Single mothers’ livelihoods in a rural area of north Central Vietnam: Struggles for a good life – Professor Tuan Anh Nguyen
   - “Good life of polygamous marriage: Rational choice in the context of tradition and habitat - A case study of Benzilan village in Deqing county, Diqing Tibetan autonomous prefecture, Yunnan province” – Professor Zhi-nong Li

Discussant: Professor Susanne Brandstädter
Chair: Dr Jake Lin

16:00 – 16:30  – Coffee, tea & cake break –

16:30 – 17:30  ERC Project WelfareStruggles kick-off – Ms Yueran Tian, Ms Minh Ngoc Luong, Dr Jake Lin, Professor Minh Nguyen

19:00  – Dinner at ZiF –
WEDNESDAY – 18 SEPTEMBER

08:00 – 09:00  – Breakfast –

09:30 – 11:00  Panel – Care and Welfare
- Good baby, good life: exploring the new Akha life free from ‘abnormal births’ – Dr Ruijing Wang
- Paternal grandma’s obligation, maternal grandma’s right - A study of postpartum care in Chinese urban families – Professor Peiqin Zhou
- The pursuit of a good life: grassroots philanthropy in late socialist China – Jiazhi Fengjiang

Discussant: Professor Andrew Kipnis
Chair: Professor Alexandra Kaasch

11:00 – 11:15  – Coffee & tea break –

11:15 – 12:45  Panel – Consumption and Desire
- Europe’s new Kulturbürger? Chinese migrants in search of a pure land – Professor Pál Nyíri
- Aspiring for a better life in Vietnam: From an equal share of misery to an unequal dose of happiness – Dr Giang Nguyen-Thu
- “Plugged into the good life”: electric supply and home appliances in market socialist Vietnam” – Dr Kirsten Endres

Discussant: Professor Susanne Brandstädter
Chair: Dr Charlotte Bruckermann

12:45 – 14:00  – Lunch –

14:00 – 15:30  Panel – Young lives
- Rural schools as sites of the circulation, practice and articulation of contradictory versions of ‘The Good Life’ in late socialist Laos - Dr Roy Huijsmans
- Grasping a future: uncertainties, imagination and the ‘good lives’ of aspiring young migrant workers in Shenzhen, China – Professor I-Chieh Fang
- Dancing the good life, rapping about the “bad” life: aspiring subjects in Vietnamese hip hop – Professor Sandra Kurfürst

Discussant: Dr Kirsten Endres
Chair: Dr. Éva Rozália Hölzle

15:30 – 16:00  – Coffee, tea & cake break –

16:00 – 18:00  Wrap up and publication plans

19:00  – Dinner at restaurant “Wirtshaus 1802 im Bültmannshof“ –

- End of the Workshop -